



Icebreaker

How did Sunday's message affect you?

Outlandish Sin • 1 Cor. 5-6

In chapter 5, Paul doesn't spend much time talking about the details of the immorality of the man in question. He mentions the details briefly, but spends most of his time talking about the church's response. What do you think of that?

On Sunday, I mentioned some ways that Christians excuse sin. We use the excuse of grace, that God will forgive any sin. We use the excuse of Freedom, that we are no longer bound by the laws of the OT or the norms of society. We use the excuse of Love, that we should allow people to express love however they want. What do you think of those excuses? Have you seen them at work in the world today? Have you seen them at work in churches today?

Paul says that the immoral man needs to be kicked out of the church completely. What do you think about that?

Paul says the man should be handed over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh so that his spirit may be saved. What do you think of that? How does that work?

Finally, Paul says that we must not judge the people in the world around us but that we must judge each other in the church so that the church can be cleansed of sin. What do you think of that? Have you seen that done well? Have you seen it done poorly? How should Christians "judge" each other?

In chapter 6, Paul takes a small detour to talk about the sin of unresolved conflict in the church and the fact that they are resorting to lawsuits to resolve the conflict. What do you think of that? Why are Christian lawsuits are so bad?

Paul says that unresolved conflict among believers should be resolved in one of two ways: (1) You should bring the concern before a council of wise people in the church and submit to their decision, or (2) You should accept the injustice, forgive and let it go. How does that compare to the way Christians solve conflict today? Are you willing to handle your conflicts the way Paul described?

Finally, Paul reminds the church about what grace and freedom really mean. Grace means that God has cleansed them from previous sin and brought them into the body of Christ. Freedom means that they have been given the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to empower them for holy living. In this context, we see the need for both holy living and Christian unity. Unrepentant sin is outlandish but so is a church that won't handle conflict well!

What is your takeaway from all this?



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